

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /095 W
----- 058696

R 141645 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8739

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E. O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER MAY 10, 1975
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: STAGESSETTING FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

REF: ROME 3378

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MAY 5-6 REGIONAL PARTY ELECTIONS CONFIRMED DC FACTION STRENGTHS REPORTED REFTEL. FACTION LEADERS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN ATTEMPTS AT ALLIANCE- BUILDING FOR PARTY' S JUNE 6-10 NATIONAL CONGRESS. AS LARGEST SINGLE PARTY GROUPING, PICCOLI-RUMOR- TAVIANI FACTION CURRENTLY HOLDS HIGH GROUND, BUT IS UNDER SIEGE BY FANFANI WHO IS TRYING RALLY ELEMENTS OF PARTY LEFT TO HIS CAUSE. ANDREOTTI SUPPORTERS ARE ALSO ACTIVELY COURTING AND BEING COURTED BY OTHERS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT TO DEFINE WHAT ALLIANCES, IF ANY, MIGHT EMERGE AT OR BEFORE CONGRESS OR THEIR IMPACT ON ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH THE ELECTION, MAY 5-6, OF 734 DELEGATES BY 20 REGIONAL PARTY CONGRESSES, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CHOSE- UP SIDES FOR THE PARTY' S TWELFTH NATIONAL CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6-10 IN ROME. REGIONAL BALLOTING FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF EARLIER, LOCAL-LEVEL VOTING (REFTEL), AND CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING RELATIVE STRENGTH OF DC FACTIONS:

FACTIONS	PERCENT	DELEGATES	PERCENT
			OF DELEGATES

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PICCOLI- RUMOR- TAVIANI	33.8	240	32.7
FANFANI- FORLANI	18.8	136	18.5
ANDREOTTI- COLOMBO	15.8	112	15.3
LA BASE (DE MITA)	10.7	80	10.9
MORO	8.0	60	8.2
FORZE NUOVE (DONAT CATTIN)	10.0	75	10.2
OTHER	2.9	31	4.2

100 PERCENT 734 100 PERCENT

THE REGIONAL VOTE ALSO REFLECTED PRE- EXISTING GEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS OF STRENGTH WITH PICCOLI- RUMOR RUNNING STRONG IN THE VENETO, TRENTINO- ALTO ADIGE, SICILY; FANFANI IN CENTRAL ITALY; ANDREOTTI- COLOMBO IN LAZIO, PUBLIA, BASILICATA; MORO IN FRIULI- VENEZIA GIULIA AND PUGLIA, AND BASE IN LOMBARDY AND CAMPANIA.

3. THE 20 REGIONAL CONGRESSES SET THE STAGE - NUMERICALLY AT LEAST - FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTY CONGRESS SINCE THE DC' S EIGHT NATIONAL CONGRESS, HELD IN NAPLES IN 1962, WHICH GAVE PARTY BLESSING TO CATHOLIC- SOCIALIST COLLABORATION IN GOVERNMENT AND THUS TO THE CENTER- LEFT FORMULA WHICH DOMINATED ITALIAN POLITICS FOR THE 1962-1972 DECADE. WITH THE CENTER- LEFT CONCEPT ROUNDLY ENDORSED BY THE PARTY CONGRESSES HELD IN 1964 (ROME), 1967 (MILAN) AND 1969 (ROME), THE UPCOMING CONGRESS WILL BE THE FIRST IN TEN YEARS TO SERIOUSLY QUESTION THE PREVIOUS DC- PSI PARTNERSHIP AND, PERHAPS, TO CHART AN ALTERNATE COURSE FOR THE FUTURE.

4. CONGRESS DECISIONS ON THE DC' S FUTURE COURSE IN TERMS OF POLICIES AND PERSONALITIES CANNOT BE FORECAST AT THE PRESENT WRITING. AS ALWAYS, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON ALLIANCE- BUILDING, OR THE LACK THEREOF, BETWEEN LEADERS OF THE DC' S MAJOR FACTIONS. PRIME FEATURE OF MANEUVERING TO DATE HAS BEEN THE PICCOLI- RUMOR FACTION' S ABSORPTION OF TAVIANI' S GROUP. SENATE PRESIDENT FANFANI' S REACTION TO RAVIANI' S " BETRAYAL" HAS INCLUDED INTENSIVE ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FANFANI AND LEADERS OF OTHER DC FACTIONS, INCLUDING PARTY LEFT, TO SWING BALANCE BACK IN FAVOR OF SENATE PRESIDENT. WHILE THE PICCOLI- RUMOR- TAVIANI FACTION HAS RECENTLY MAINTAINED SILENCE ON SUCH KEY CONGRESS ISSUES AS DC- SOCIALIST RELATIONSHIPS, FANFANI HAS TALKED OF NEED FOR EXPANDED " DEMOCRATIC AREA"; ALWAYS, HOWEVER, WITH SOLID GUARANTEES

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OF PSI AUTONOMY FROM THE COMMUNISTS. LEF- WING MORO AND BASE FACTIONS SET SIMILAR PRECONDITIONS FOR NEW DC- PSI RELATIONSHIP WHILE FARTHEST- LEFT FORZE NUOVE GROUP FEELS PSI AUTONOMY FROM THE PCI ALREADY SUFFICIENTLY ESTABLISHED. PARIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI HAS NOT YET ALLIED HIS OWN FACTION WITH EITHER OF THE TWO CURRENTLY

CONTENDING MAJOR GROUPINGS. HIS PRICE FOR DOING SO AND THE IMPACT
THIS MIGHT HAVE ON HIS TENURE AS PRIME MINISTER REMAIN TO BE SEEN.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME03789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730543/aaaajcds.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ROME 3378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980209
Subject: STAGESSETTING FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS
TAGS: PINT, IT, PINT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005